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(54) Title: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ENHANCING THE FAULT-TOLERANCE OF A NETWORK**

(57) Abstract

A method and apparatus for enhancing the fault-tolerance of a network finds a set of computing nodes within the network which are available for use in the network upon detection of a faulty component. This set of available computing nodes is found by first determining a set of computing nodes within the network which are physically connected together. A connectivity value for each computing node within this set is then determined. A subset of the set is then generated such that each computing node in the subset is able to transfer data to and from each other computing node in the subset. This subset is then utilized as the set of available computing nodes. In one embodiment, the set of computing nodes which are physically connected together is the largest set of physically connected computing nodes in the system.

